

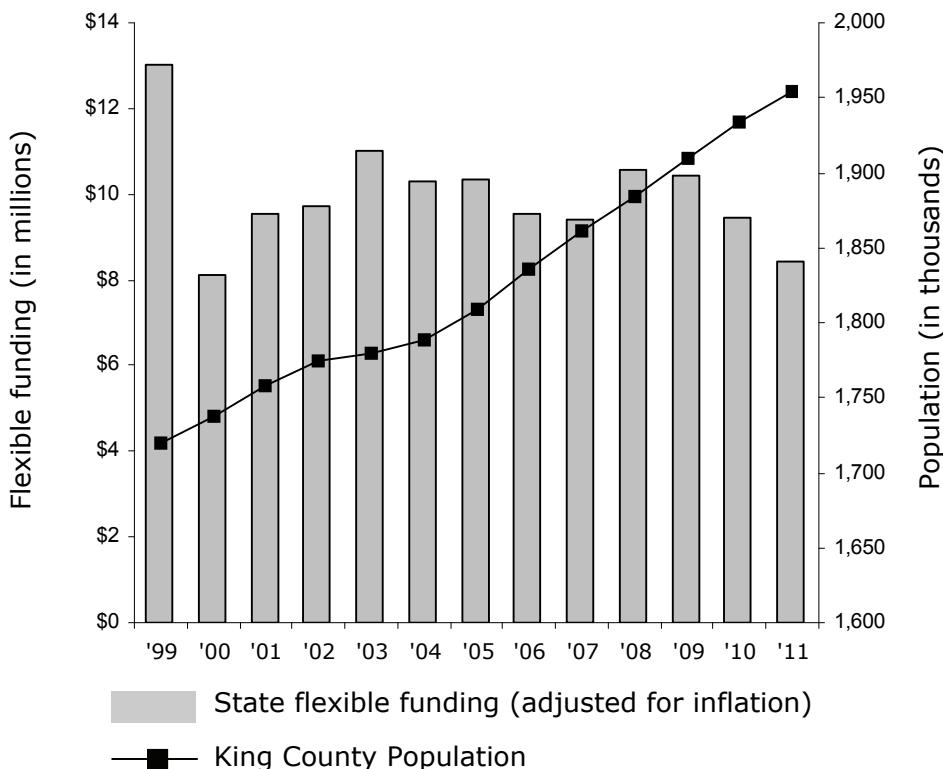


## Public Health: A System in Crisis

Deep cuts to funding for public health services put the health and well-being of every Washington state resident at risk by eroding the public health system that serves all Washingtonians.

- Cuts to public health will mean more illness and more preventable deaths.** Without the core services provided by Public Health, we will face more illness from communicable disease like tuberculosis; bigger, more frequent outbreaks of 20<sup>th</sup> century vaccine-preventable diseases like measles and whooping cough; and more death and disability from preventable injuries and chronic diseases.
- Cuts to public health will result in higher health care costs.** Public health's preventive programs save lives and money. For example, every state dollar invested tobacco prevention and control saves \$5 in health care costs. Unintended pregnancies resulting from family planning cuts will cost the state an average of \$8,675 per birth.
- Cuts to public health will intensify health disparities.** While all people are affected by state budget cuts, low-income women and children and communities of color will be inequitably impacted.

### King County flexible funding is decreasing as the population served increases



### Key Facts

- Washington state's investment in public health flexible funding has decreased by 35 percent since 1999.
- There is an unmet funding gap of \$315 million needed to assure an adequate level of local public health services in Washington state, according to the Joint Select Committee on Public Health Finance.
- These cuts will affect all Washington state residents by slashing core public health services, including communicable disease control, chronic disease and injury prevention, and emergency preparedness.

### King County services impacted by flexible funding cuts

- Chronic disease and injury prevention programs
- Clinical health services for low-income and uninsured residents
- Emergency preparedness
- Communicable disease control
- Immunizations
- Health education and promotion
- Family planning
- Pandemic flu and disaster planning
- Food safety
- Maternal and child health programs
- Hazardous waste disposal
- Safe drinking water

## **Budget Solutions**

Budget reductions are inevitable in this unprecedeted crisis. We are committed to working with the state to find the most innovative, efficient and cost-effective ways to invest its health care dollars. Cutting primary care and preventive health care services for those who need them the most is not the answer. The Governor's Advisory Work Group has put forth a number of recommendations, including:

- ◆ Implementing a "generics first" prescription policy for Medicaid
- ◆ Restricting payments for services that should not occur, such as preventable hospital readmissions
- ◆ Reducing the use of overused services, such as imaging and cesarean sections.

These and additional recommendations can be found in the "Report from Governor's Workgroup on Health Care Reform," submitted November 12, 2010, by the Puget Sound Health Alliance ([www.pugetsoundhealthalliance.org/documents/RecommendationsNovember2010\\_000.pdf](http://www.pugetsoundhealthalliance.org/documents/RecommendationsNovember2010_000.pdf)).